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RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 4247
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SUBJECT: AIR TRANSPORT FOR AFGHANS TO HAJJ --LEASED AIRLIFT
SUPPORT NOW MEETING GOA REQUIREMENTS

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REF: KABUL 5547

¶1. (SBU) After a week of Hajj flight operations, the GoA has indicated that currently-leased aircraft are meeting the demands of Afghanistan's Hajj and can be expected to function properly through the first phase, i.e., getting Hajjis to Jeddah over the next three weeks. While some substantial issues remain (particularly the SAG's ability to issue adequate numbers of visas in time to fill the Afghan flights), these are being addressed separately. Embassy appreciates the support from the Department, NATO, and NATO capitals and confirms that all can stand down from efforts to obtain standby airlift support for the Afghans (pursuant to reftel instruction from the Department).

NEUMANN